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November 21, 2003

Mr. Ron Jones  
Director  
Tennessee Regulatory Authority  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN

Re: Docket 03-00491

Dear Director Jones:

Prior to our December 1, 2003 pre-hearing conference, we thought it might be helpful to share with you some of our suggestions about handling the procedural issues mentioned in your Order of November 20 and to respond to some of the concerns you raised.

Subsequent to the filing of their Petitions to Intervene, a number of parties have clarified that they have intervened solely for the purpose of monitoring the proceedings and receiving copies of filings. Those parties are: Time Warner, TDS, EPB Telecom, Citizens, and Qwest. Among the "active" parties, all but the Consumer Advocate, and Sprint are represented either by Mr. Hicks or by the firm of Boulton, Cummings, Conners & Berry (Mr. Walker and Mr. Hastings).

Although not always so indicated on the certificate of service, the joint motions filed by us have been immediately served electronically on all parties who have so requested, pursuant to your earlier instructions. That includes Sprint and the Consumer Advocate, the only active parties not joining in the motions.

Throughout these proceedings, there have been continual discussions among BellSouth and the members of CompSouth about procedural issues. In one such discussion, it was agreed that every carrier that is a member of CompSouth would participate fully in the discovery process as if that carrier were an individual party to the proceeding. We apologize for not bringing this to your attention earlier. Furthermore, unless otherwise indicated, when a filing is made by CompSouth, it is made not only on behalf of the group but also on behalf of those CompSouth members, such as AT&T and DeltaCom, which have also chosen to intervene individually in this proceeding.<sup>1</sup>

At the status conference on December 1, 2003, we look forward to discussing further the procedural schedule in this docket. It was our intention in the joint motion filed on November 19 that the dates for the filing of testimony, the hearing, and for filing post-hearing briefs remain

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Walker represents both CompSouth and each individual member and can accept service on behalf of each of the members.

unchanged. We believed that those dates and the ones suggested in our motion are the only dates that must be set at this time. We anticipated that dates for other filings, which may or may not be required, could be established as the need arises. Thus far, the parties have been largely successful in negotiating and resolving such procedural issues, and this process is continuing on a region-wide basis.

We hope you find this information helpful. We apologize again for any confusion created by our prior filings. Because of the regional nature of the parties' discussions, we often do not receive instructions about requested changes in the procedural schedule until shortly before a pending deadline. Each such request, however, typically reflects the results of literally dozens of conversations among nearly all the active parties to this docket. When possible, we also try to contact the Consumer Advocate, and Sprint. In any event, as mentioned above, both the Consumer Advocate, and Sprint are electronically copied on all filings. A copy of this letter will be served on all parties via email today.

Very truly yours,

By:

  
Henry Walker

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HW/pp

Cc: All Parties